

THE
ANSWER
OF BOTH
HOUSES

OF
PARLIAMENT

To his MAJESTIES Message
of the 12. of November.

WITH
HIS MAJESTIES
Reply thereunto.



Printed, by His MAJESTIES Command,

AT OXFORD,

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*The Answer of both Houses of Parliament
to his MAJESTIES Message of the 12.
of November.*

TO Your Majesties Message of the 12. of this Month
of November, Wee the Lords and Commons in
Parliament doe make this humble Answer. That
this Message was not delivered to us till Monday
the 14. Wee thought it a strange Introduction to Peace, that
Your Majesty should send Your Army to beat us out of our
Quarters at *Brainceford*, and then appoint that place to receive
our Propositions, which, yet it plainly appeares, Your Ma-
jesty intended not to receive till You had first tried, whether
you could breake through the Army raised for Defence of
this Kingdome and Parliament, and take the Citty being un-
provided and secure in expectation of a faire Treaty made to
secure the Citty. If herein Your Majesty had prevailed, after
You had destroyed the Army and mastered the Citty, it is ea-
sie to imagine, what a miserable Peace Wee should have had,
and whether those Courses bee futable to the Expressions
Your Majesty is pleased to make in Your Answer to our Peti-
tion, of Your Earnestnesse to avoyd any further Effusion of
bloud, let God and the World judge.

As for our Proceedings, they have in all things beene an-
swerable to our Professions: wee gave directions to the Earle
of *Essex* to draw the Army under his Command out of the
Citty

Citty and Suburbs, before wee sent any Message to Your Majesty. So that part of it was inquartered at *Brainceford* before the Committee returned with Your Answer. And immediately upon the Receipt thereof, that very Morning Order was taken that the Souldiers should Exercise no Act of hostility against any of Your Majesties People. Wee sent a letter by Sir *Peter Killigrew* to know Your Majesties pleasure whether You intended the like forbearance of hostility. But the fury of Your Souldiers, thirsting after bloud and spoile, prevented the delivery of the letter. For comming upon Saturday in his way towards Your Majesty as farre as *Brainceford*, hee found them in fight there and could passe no further. God who sees our Innocency, and that wee have no Aymes, but at his Glory and the publique good, will (wee hope) free Your Majesty from those destructive Counsels who labour to maintaine their owne power by bloud and rapine, and blesse our Endeavours, who seeke nothing, but to procure and establish the Honour, Peace and Safety of Your Majesty and Kingdomes, upon the sure foundation of Religion and Justice.



*To the Answer of both Houses of Parliament
to His MAJESTIES Message of the 12. of November, His MAJESTIE makes this Reply.*

THat His Message of the 12. though not received by them till the 14. was sent to them first upon the same day upon which it was dated, and meeting with stops by the way, was againe sent upon the 13. and taken upon that day at tenne in the morning by the Earle of *Effex*, and though

not to him directed, was by him opened, so the slownesse of the Delivery is not so strange as the stoppe of the Letter said to bee sent by Sir *Peter Killigrew*, which His Majesty hath not yet received, but concludes from the matter expressed to have beene contain'd in that Letter (to wit to know his Pleasure, whether Hee intended the forbearance of Hostility) and by the Command of such forbearance said to bee sent to the Lord of *Essex* his Army, that no such forbearance was already concluded, and consequently neither had His Majesty cause to suppose, that Hee should take any of their forces unprovided and secure in expectation of a faire Treaty, neither could any Hostile Act of His Majesties Forces have beene a course unfutable to His expressions, much lesse could an endeavour to prepossesse (for so Hee hoped Hee might have done) that Place, which might have stopt the farther March of those Forces towards Him, (which, for ought appear'd to him, might as well have beene intended to *Colebrooke* as to *Brainceford*, and by that the further effusion of blood, deserve that stile.

His Majesty farther conceives, that the Printing so out of time of such a Declaration, as their *Reply* to his *Answer* to theirs of the 26. of *May*, but the day before they Voted the Delivery of their Petition, and the March of the Earle of *Essex* his Forces to *Brainceford* so neere to his Majesty, when the Committee at the same time attended Him with a Petition for a Treaty, the Earle of *Essex* being before possesst of all the other Avenues to his Army, by his Forces at *Windsore*, *Acton*, and *Kingston*, was a more strange introduction to Peace, then for His Majesty not to suffer Himselfe to bee coopt up on all sides, because a Treaty had beene mention'd, which was so really and so much desired by His Majesty, that this Proceeding seemes to Him purposely by some intended to divert (which it could not doe) that His Inclination.

That His Majesty had no intention to master the City by
so

so advancing, besides His profession, which (how meanely soever they seeme to value it) Hee conceives a sufficient Argument, (especially being onely oppos'd by suspicions and surmises) may appeare by His not Pursuing His Victory at *Brainceford*, but giving orders to His Army to March away to *Kingston* as soone as Hee heard that place was quitted, before any notice or Appearance of farther Forces from *London*; Nor could Hee find a better way to satisfiethem before hand, that Hee had no such intention, but that His desire of Peace, and of Propositions that might conduce to it, still continued, then by that Message of the 12. for which care of His Hee was requited by such a Reception of His Message and Messenger, as was contrary at once both to duty, civility, and the very customes, and Law of Warre, and Nations, and such as theirs (though after this Provocation) hath not found from Him.

His Majesty wonders that His Souldiers should be charged with thirsting after bloud, who tooke above five hundred Prisoners in the very heat of the fight, His Majesty having since dismissed all the Common Souldiers, and entertain'd such as were willing to serve Him, and required onely from the rest an Oath not to serve against Him; And His Majesty supposes such most apt and likely to maintaine their Power by bloud and rapine, who have onely got it by Oppression and Injustice; That His is vested in Him by the Law, and by that onely (if the destructive Counsels of Others would not hinder such a Peace, in which that might once againe bee the Universall Rule, and in which Religion and Iustice can onely flourish) He desires to maintaine it. And if Peace were equally desired by them, as it is by His Majesty, Hee conceives it would have beene proper to have sent Him such a Paper as should have contained just Propositions of Peace, and not an unjust Accusation of His Counsels, Proceedings and Person.

And

And His Majesty intends to March to such a Distance from
 His City of London, as may take away all Pretence of Ap-
 prehension from his Army, that might hinder them in all Se-
 curity from yet preparing them to present to him, and there
 will bee ready either to receive them, or to end the
 pressures, and miseries, which His Subjects, to
 His great Greife, suffer through this
 Warre, by a Present
 Battaile.

FINIS.